



*City of Middletown Public Works Department
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Support: SB 11, AAC The Reliability, Sustainability and Economic Vitality of the State's Waste Management System

Support: SB 296, AAC A Minimum Recycled Glass Content for Wine and Liquor Bottles Sold or Distributed in the Northeast Region

Support: SB 298, AAC Food Waste Diversion and Anerobic Digestion Facilities

Support: SB 299 AAC the Distribution of Single Use Straws

Support: AAC the Recycling and Disposal of Smoke Detectors

Support: HB 5339 AA Prohibiting the Release of Helium Balloons into the Atmosphere

Support/AMEND: HB 5340 AAC the Modernization of the CT Bottle Redemption Program

Support/AMEND: HB 5342 AAC Multistream Recycling

Dear Senator Cohen, Senator Minor, Representative Demicco, and members of the Environment Committee,

I am writing to support the above bills. In addition, I would like to comment on the following ones:

SB 296 – Anything we can do to increase recycled content in any product is the utmost importance to the ultimate success of any recycling program. This bill will start the conversation and make CT a leader in increasing minimum content standards for glass. It is important to note that glass can be recycled infinitely, but glass collected with single stream programs is extremely problematic and the quality is diminished to the point where most of it is not recycled at all. As the state considers this, they should also consider adding glass items such as liquor and wine bottles to the bottle redemption law to provide more high quality glass material for this endeavor. It makes no sense to work on increasing the recycled content (which is very important) if the material is not available in a usable form.

SB 300 – CT needs an Extended Producer Responsibility program for smoke detectors. Disposal options are less than acceptable. As a municipal recycling coordinator, I am

questioned all the time about how to dispose of smoke detectors. There are no good answers. You shouldn't put it in the trash. It can't go to a hazardous waste collection. And you can't put it in your recycling bin. Currently, the best answer is to return them to the manufacturers, but the process is cumbersome and complicated and sometimes impossible. Often people just give up and end up throwing it in the trash, sometimes causing problems at the trash facilities. Smoke detectors are an exemplary item for a product stewardship program. Manufacturers should be involved in financing and setting up a program to manage the proper disposal of them, similar to the State's EPR programs for paint, mattresses and electronics. I strongly encourage your support of this bill.

HB 5340 – NEEDS AMENDING. There is no question that the bottle redemption law in CT is outdated and needs modernization. It has been discussed for years. There is also no question that the material from the bottle bill is a much higher quality than curbside single stream material. If this bill passed the State could increase recycling rates significantly. I support the language of this bill, but also suggest that it include other glass bottles such as liquor and wine bottles. These items make up 60% of the glass stream. Most glass, even if it is put in recycling carts, is not getting recycled single stream. Expanding the redemption to glass wine and liquor bottles would give much needed relief to municipalities and increase recycling.

HB 5342– NEEDS AMENDING – Considering the issues the State is having with glass, I do believe this bill could be helpful. However, should the Commissioner decide to amend the regulations to prescribe the manner and method of separation of designated recyclables, it should be stated that all stakeholders, including the manufacturers, distributors and the State should be involved in financing these necessary operational changes. These changes could cost municipalities significant amounts of money and they alone cannot be responsible to funding these changes. It's 2020. Packaging and products are changing so fast, municipalities cannot be expected to finance the disposal of all these products. All stakeholders, especially those profiting from the products, must be involved in these changes and in the disposal of their products.

Thank you for the opportunity to support these bills. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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